



# FOOD SCOOP

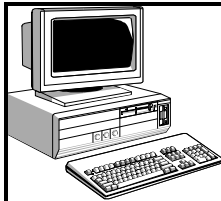
“A Michigan Food & Nutrition Program Edition”

**NOVEMBER 1999**

Issue No. 4

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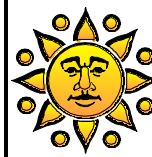
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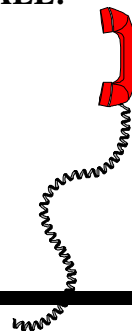
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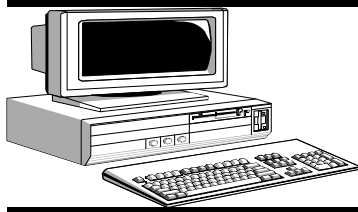
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### NEED ASSISTANCE CALL:

School Meals Program	(517) 373-3347
Food Distribution	(517) 373-8642
Fiscal Reporting	(517) 373-2077
Child Care Food Program	(517) 373-7391
Fax Number	(517) 373-4022





## MEIS Updates

### Fiscal Update

Submission of claim data on the Michigan Education Information System (MEIS) is only the first step in the process that ends with receiving a check from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

The School Lunch Program claim reimbursement processing and payment system is currently being converted to a new client server based system from a main frame system. This conversion procedure is well into its second year and nearing full production. It has been, and continues to be, a painstaking endeavor working with a complex process which interacts with other systems to ultimately produce a reimbursement payment based on your claim data.

One of the other systems involved in this process resides with the Grants Unit within our accounting department. That unit is also undergoing a major program conversion. This is where the payments that you receive are actually authorized and information sent to the Michigan Department of Treasury for issuance of a check (warrant).

One or both of these system conversions have contributed to various problems recently. This includes delayed payments, duplicate payments, and some incorrect amounts being issued. We know that this has caused inconvenience and hope that by providing this background information it might help in

understanding why these situations are occurring. We ask for your continued patience as we progress through this new program construction.

Again, we strongly encourage you to subscribe to the MEIS Listserv in order to receive current updates. For information on how to subscribe go to:

<http://www.mde.state.mi.us/meis/listserv.shtml>

### Shortage of Commodities



## Commodity Chat

Many schools have asked about the lack of USDA commodity canned and frozen fruits and vegetables this school year. We have been investigating the facts and figures from the last three years. USDA is definitely not offering us the amount of product we have had in the past. We know one reason is due to the various weather-related disasters over the past spring and summer.

We also believe our commitment to participate in the Department of Defense (DOD) fresh produce program has effected the total number of trucks offered. Last year we committed approximately \$1.4 Million to the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables. This school year, we committed \$1.75 Million to the DOD program.

This commitment was made based on the recommendations of food service directors. I guess it was naive to think that committing dollars to one aspect of our fruit and vegetable allocation would not have impact on other areas.

We need to weigh the pros and cons of the DOD program. It is unfortunate that the quality of products we have received this Fall has not been very good. We have made DOD aware of our concerns. An official from the DOD program visited the warehouses this Fall to evaluate their storage and handling techniques. His opinion was that the produce was being handled properly. We are working with USDA to get a more concise picture of how dollars allocated to the DOD program directly effects the amount of trucks offered of other products. Perhaps the amount of dollars spent on fresh produce will need to be reduced.

Please e-mail, fax or call Kathy Rhodes with your comments and suggestions.  
E-mail: rhodesk@state.mi.us, FAX: 517-373-4022, phone 517-373-4265.

### **BUY AMERICAN**

We have received a few questions over the past year about the Buy American provision in the National School Lunch Program regulations. People ask these questions: Do we have to write the Buy American provision into our purchase specifications? Does everything we buy have to be grown or made in America?

Last year when the re-authorization of the National School Lunch Act was passed, it included language to strengthen and clarify the Buy American requirements. The 1998 Re-authorization Act requires all agencies that participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program to

buy food produced in the United States when buying with Federal funds. Earlier legislation allowed some limited exceptions to the “domestic origin” requirement, but the new legislation is specific in requiring schools, *to the maximum extent practicable*, to purchase product of domestic origin.

The legislation goes on to define domestic product as an agricultural commodity (for example, red meat, chicken, fruit, vegetable, or grain) that is produced in the United States. Processed products are also defined. A domestic food product is processed in the United States substantially using domestic agricultural commodities. Substantially means that over 50 per cent of the processed food comes from American produced products. Regulations implementing these requirements were published on September 20, 1999. A copy of the regulations can be found on the USDA Child Nutrition Home Page in the *What’s New* section (School Nutrition Program: Nondiscretionary Technical Amendments). The website address is <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/>.

USDA cautioned us in the following words: Occasionally, a significant price difference between U.S. and foreign product may tempt a school system to purchase the cheaper foreign product. However, this price difference could be attributable to price-distorting subsidies of a foreign government. For example, recent imports of cheap, subsidized canned peaches for the European Union have displaced sales of domestic canned peaches. The U.S. Government is considering action to address this practice, including placing canned peaches from the European Union on a list of products subject to 100 percent tariffs.

In light of this new level of regulation, please check your purchasing specifications and include

the provision that the products you use must be United States products. Consider it a step toward the development of a policy to provide your students with American made products that are safe and wholesome.

### **Excess Commodity Available**

6- 25# bags of Rice. If interested, please contact Judy Van Daele from Jefferson Schools at 734-289-5553.



**Food For Thought**

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### **WINDFALL OR 31D?**

Some people called to thank us for the gift. Some thought we were discussing the size of certain under garments. Actually, it is neither.

When we talk about 31d, we are talking about a new category of State Aid payment. You received the funds in a lump sum for fiscal years 1998 and 1999; that payment arrived in your school district with the August 20, 1999 State Aid payment. We published a long article in the September 1999 edition of *Food Scoop* that described Section 31d funds in great detail. The title of that article is *New State Aid Initiatives School Lunch Program*. To get those details please read that article on paper or on our web site (<http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/oss/news>). Section 31d funds are part of the monthly State Aid payment that comes to your finance office. We heard from many school food service directors that they were unaware of this additional resource, so here is a little more information about it.

The 1999 payment is an estimate based on 1998. The payments coming in now are one eleventh of that estimate. You and your business office will need to build the Section 31d funds into your budget. These funds are categorical state aid restricted to the mandated school lunch program. Some school lunch programs will not receive 31d funds; they are non-public schools, public school academies, Intermediate School Districts, K-6 and K-8 districts. Those entities are not mandated to implement the National School Lunch Program. Also, a few school districts receive enough state aid to cover the mandated program costs and they will not receive 31d funds.

Do you wonder what the amount is of 31d categorical payment? Well, you can find it on the web - just a few clicks away. If you do not have the free Adobe Acrobat reader, you will need to download that at the Office of State Aid web site. Here are the steps (and clicks) to find your State Aid Status Report:

1. Go to the MDE web site at <http://www.state.mi.us/mde>.
2. Click on What's New.
3. Scroll down to 10/18/99 State School Aid and click.
4. Scroll down the newsletter to 1999-2000 State Aid Financial Status Report and click.
5. Scroll down the page to Resources and click on State Aid Status Reports.
6. The reports are grouped by county. When you click on your county the pages come up in order of agreement number. Scroll down until you find yours. The title of the category is 31d School Lunch.

The August 1999 State Aid Status Reports are archived and can be accessed from the State Aid/School Finance page under Resources (Steps 4 & 5 above). We hope this helps you with planning your budget and doing some

necessary updating of your equipment. Please refer to the September *Food Scoop* for additional details.

### **Nutrition Review Frequently Asked Questions**

To help schools prepare for their Nutrition Reviews, we will publish frequently asked questions as we receive them.

**Q:** Will I need to submit menu information for all of my buildings or just for one?

**A:** Usually you will need to submit information for just one. We need to do a Nutrition Review for one building for each menu planning system you use. If you are using just one system (for example, Enhanced Food Based Menus) for your whole district, we just review one building and you select the building.

**Q:** If I am using an approved USDA program to analyze my menus, do I have to fill out all the forms for someone else to re-do the analysis?

**A:** If you have already analyzed your menus, you need to send us the menu with the designated week, and print off all of your supporting documentation from your computer program. So we would need copies of every standardized recipe, including the recipes for milk and other variety items, every menu, every manufactured item and so on. We need to look over what you have done to ensure that the analysis is correct. If you are not using an approved USDA software program, we need the raw data, but we would also like a copy of your weekly analysis for comparison.

**Q:** Can I do a five day analysis that includes

two separate weeks?

**A:** A week is five consecutive days (or seven consecutive days for an RCCI). You may begin on a Wednesday and end the next Tuesday, for example, but the days must be consecutive.

**Q:** Do I need to send nutrition labels for processed commodity products?

**A:** No. MDE will supply the information for state processed commodity products, but you do need to let us know which items on your menu are commodity items.

**Q:** Why do I have to rewrite all this stuff? Can't I just send my production records?

**A:** The sample forms we are sending make data entry much easier and we have asked for all of the information needed. If your production records are clean, clear and easy to read, if they provide all of the necessary information, and if they include only items used in reimbursable meals, then you can send them along instead of the forms.

**Q:** Do I have to include condiments like catsup, mustard, mayonnaise, ranch dressing, etc. for each menu or what? This is confusing.

**A:** You have several options regarding condiments. You can include them as part of a recipe for a product. For example, you could have a cheeseburger recipe that includes these items: 1 hamburger bun (1.8 oz), 1 ground beef patty (2.2 oz raw), 1 slice American cheese (1/2 oz), 1 T catsup, 1 t mustard and 3 dill pickle slices. Or you could estimate your actual condiment usage for the each day of week of the Nutrition Review and record it on the Meal Collection form. Or you could write your own condiment recipe from your records or using the

Multi-Day Collection form.

Q: Condiments are available for reimbursable meals and for a la carte; how do I separate the usage?

A: We are asking you to estimate the quantity used for reimbursable meals. An estimate is your best judgement based on the quantity used and the number of students who ate.

Q: How often will you be conducting a Nutrition Review on my school district?

A: At this time we plan to conduct Nutrition Reviews in every school district (or school food authority) once every five years. If we see that we can accomplish the task more quickly, we will conduct Nutrition Reviews within the CRE review cycle - once every four years.

Q: After all of the data analysis is complete, will you send a report to the school district?

A: We will send a report to the contact person that the school district or school food authority designates on the Cover Sheet that comes with the Nutrition Review letter. We have asked for a contact person and phone number for purposes of follow up. If you wish to share the results of your Nutrition Review, you may do so or you may ask us to send a copy to your school administrators, but they will not automatically receive a copy.

Q: What happens if I fail the Review?

A: We will measure your weekly analysis against the Nutrient Standard (you can find it in the Menu Planner for Healthy School Meals on pages 24 and 26) and show where you met the standard, where you were over and where

you were under. It isn't exactly pass/fail. We will also suggest possible changes you can make to meet the standard more closely. If your menus deviate a lot from the standard, we may suggest technical assistance - that means we will send a consultant out to visit you. Then, you have the next four or five years to implement the suggested changes to show progress on your next Nutrition Review. What is this all about? It is about providing nutritious, appealing meals to students so they can achieve their full potential - the same thing it's been about for over 50 years.

## **ALLERGY ALERT**

Last month the Governor declared October 28<sup>th</sup> as Celiac Disease Awareness Day. Celiac Disease is an inherited disease that is frequently misdiagnosed. The reason we are bringing this to your attention is that men, women and children with this disease must consume a gluten free diet. You may have a student in your school who needs this kind of diet.

We have attached information sheets to the back of this newsletter with detailed information. Please keep this for your files. Children and adults with this disease cannot eat any food with wheat, barley, rye or oats or the byproducts of these grains. They may consume rice, corn, soy, legumes, nuts and seeds.

Here are some Michigan contacts for more information.

Flint Area: Nyla Wilson - 810-686-2539

Gladstone: David A. Jondrown - 906-428-1621

Grand Rapids: Jude Stover - 616-459-6993

Grand Rapids: Maryalyce Rose-616-788-4715

Detroit Area: Thomas Sullivan -313-881-4526

Jim Lyles - 248-634-4610

Sue Gentilla - 249-926-1228

Lansing Area: Greta de Wolf - 517-349-0294

Kersti Borysowicz - 517-351-1203  
Kelly Yoakam - 517-244-9433  
Traverse City: Sandra Cartwright - 213-947-8324

### **Should Children Be Forced To Clean Their Plates?**

The answer is no. For many, this is not as simple as it sounds, especially if your child or grandchild has only eaten a peanut butter and jelly sandwich all day. Children eat in response to hunger, just like babies do. Children will stop eating when they are full unless someone or something interferes with their ability to listen to their bodies, like "Billy, clean your plate or no dessert!"

There is a division of responsibility regarding child-eating habits: caregivers decide *what* food is served, *where* it is served and *when* it is served, children decide *how much* to eat. This is true even in school meals. Children grow at different rates and some will not eat as much as others. Standard portions are important and required, but students are given the opportunity to choose what they like. Also, school lunch serves sweets (like cookies) with the meal. Usually a cookie will not fill up a child and he/she will still eat the other food, even if they ate the cookie first. By making desserts and other seemingly "forbidden" food as part of the meal, children do not have to overeat just to get dessert.

Serving a variety of foods expose children to food in a positive way. School lunch and breakfast may be the only place children have the opportunity to try a variety of foods. It also reinforces that there are no "good foods/bad foods". It comes down to how much and how often children are offered and eat unhealthy foods.

So, back to the "clean your plate" club. Old

habits are hard to break, but let children decide how much they want to eat. Try to control for when they are playing games with you. If they refuse dinner just to get the candy bar at snack time, remember you get to decide what is served for snack. Also, set a good example, if you want your children and grandchildren to eat veggies, eat them yourself!

### **ASFSA CREDENTIALING EXAM**

It is never too early to plan, especially when you are planning to take an exam. We asked at the Fall Conference for Food Service Directors if



people were interested in taking the credentialing exam for ASFSA. Several people expressed an interest and many people had questions about it. With the interest shown, we definitely will offer the test as a pre-conference activity at next year's conference. Please read on for a brief description about credentialing.

### **What is credentialing and the test I have been hearing about?**

*Certification* is a program that provides guidelines for school food service and nutrition to continue their professional development. It provides standards for academic, specialized training, and skills. Upon meeting these standards, one becomes ASFSA certified at one of three levels. The level depends on the academic and specialized training completed to date.

The *credentialing* program is geared for higher-

level school food service and nutrition personnel and requires the successful completion of a national examination. Candidates who pass this exam are awarded the designation of School Food Service & Nutrition Specialist (SFNS). The applicant must hold a minimum of an Associate's Degree or education equivalent. One year of experience in school food service & nutrition during the past 5 years. An additional minimum of 30 hours of specialized training in food service training, management, nutrition, business or a related area.

### **Is anyone in Michigan credentialed?**

Yes! We have 4 people who have successfully completed the examination. Janet Gaffke, Karen Fox, Mary Claya, and June Bailey. These people took the test at ASFSA Conferences.

So, if you would like some first-hand information, you can contact one of these folks to ask what they thought about the test and how to best prepare for it. You can contact ASFSA for registration information and for some sample test questions. When we bring an ASFSA staff member in, we pay for all of his/her expenses, but you will be responsible for paying your registration fee directly to ASFSA. We will contact ASFSA and set the date and time for the exam. Mark the third week in October 2000 for this opportunity and stayed tuned for further information!



<div>November 1999</div> <div>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</div> <div>CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM</div>	<div>Michigan State Board of Education</div> <div><i>Dorothy Beardmore, President</i></div> <div><i>Kathleen N. Straus, Vice President</i></div> <div><i>Herbert S. Moyer, Secretary</i></div> <div><i>Sharon Wise, Treasurer</i></div> <div><i>Sharon L. Gire</i></div> <div><i>Marianne Yared McGuire</i></div> <div><i>Clark Durant</i></div> <div><i>Eileen L. Weiser</i></div> <div><i>Arthur E. Ellis, Superintendent</i></div> <div><i>Governor John Engler, Ex-Officio</i></div>
November 1999	
10	October Monthly Claim Due
29	Cut-off for September Monthly Claim
December 1999	
10	October Monthly Claim Due
31	Cut-off for October Monthly Claim

*No person because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination in our United States Department of Agriculture donated food and child nutrition programs. Any person who believes they have been discriminated against should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.*

# STATEWIDE TRAINING PROGRAM CLASS SCHEDULE

1999

**NOTE:** *All registrations must be in the MDE office before the deadline dates!*

## BASICS - 100

Fee: Member \$18.00 and Non-Member \$25.00

Location	Dates	Times
Washtenaw ISD 1819 South Wagner Road Ann Arbor, MI 48106 <i>Deadline: December 27, 1999</i>	January 10, 12, 13, 2000	3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Lapeer Community Schools Administration/White Bldg. 1025 West Nepessing Lapeer, MI 48446 <i>Deadline: January 13, 2000</i>	January 27, February 3, 10, 2000	3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

## SANITATION & SAFETY - 120

Fee: Member \$18.00 and Non-Member \$25.00

Location	Dates	Times
Genesee ISD Health & Nutrition Serv. Bldg. 5089 Pilgrim Road Flint, MI 48507 <i>Deadline: December 27, 1999</i>	January 10, 18, 26, 2000	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## PRINCIPLES OF FOOD PREP - 150

Fee: Member \$18.00 and Non-Member \$25.00

*Each participant must bring a calculator to class.*

Location	Dates	Times
Genesee ISD Health & Nutrition Serv. Bldg. 5089 Pilgrim Road Flint, MI 48507 <i>Deadline: January 25, 2000</i>	February 8, 10, 16, 2000	3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

<p align="center"><b>NUTRITION I - 180</b></p> <p align="center">Fee: Member \$18.00 and Non-Member \$25.00</p>
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Location	Dates	Times
Grand Rapids Public Schools Food and Nutrition Center 1130 Race Street Grand Rapids, MI 49503 <i>Deadline: January 3, 2000</i>	January 17, 20, 24, 2000	3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

<p align="center"><b>CATERING - 203 (3 hours)</b></p> <p align="center">Fee: Member \$15.00 and Non-Member \$18.00</p> <p align="center"><b><i>Prerequisite: Sanitation &amp; Safety - 120</i></b></p>
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Location	Dates	Times
Eastland Junior High School 18700 Frank Street Roseville, MI 48066-1697 <i>Deadline: January 6, 2000</i>	January 20, 2000 <i>snow date is Jan. 27<sup>th</sup></i>	2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

<p align="center"><b>MICHIGAN'S HEALTHY EDGE 2001 - 280</b></p> <p align="center">Fee: Member \$18.00 and Non-Member \$25.00</p>
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Location	Dates	Times
Genesee ISD Health & Nutrition Serv. Bldg. 5089 Pilgrim Road Flint, MI 48507 <i>Deadline: January 6, 2000</i>	January 20, 27, February 1, 2000	3:00 - 6:30 p.m. (20th/27th) 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. (1st)

*Use one form and one check per class.*

**Check which type of menu planning method you use:**



All registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If this class is filled, the registration form and check will be returned to you. **Confirmation letters will NOT be mailed.** Assume that you are registered unless otherwise notified.

[Copy as necessary]

# Statewide Training Program

## Multi-Registration Form

*Use one form and one check per class.*

<b>CLASS NAME:</b> _____ <b>CLASS LOCATION:</b> _____ <b>DATE(S) OF CLASS:</b> _____				<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT:</b> _____  <b>PHONE:</b> _____		<b>DISTRICT NUMBER:</b> _____
Last Name	First Name	Social Security #	Home Telephone #	Home Address (Street, City, Zip)	MSFSA #	Fee Per Student
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
Total the right hand column and attach a separate check for this amount only. Make checks payable to <b>MSFSA</b> .						\$ _____



**Check which type of menu planning method you use:**



☐ **Food based - traditional**

☐ **Food based - enhanced**

☐ **Nutrient standard**

☐ **Assisted NSMP**

**Make check payable to MSFSA and mail to:**

**Michigan Department of Education**

**Statewide Training Program--School Meals Unit**

**P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909**

All registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. If this class is filled, the registration form and check will be returned to you. **Confirmation letters will NOT be mailed.** Assume that you are registered unless otherwise notified.

<b>For Michigan Department of Education Use Only</b>	Check #		Amount	\$
		<input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Personal		

[Copy as necessary]